

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR


A MONTHLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GRACE REFORMED CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL.

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THE PASTOR'S OUTING.

 **U**ESDAY morning, July 16, the pastor and his family left the city for an outing of a few weeks, among friends and loved ones in Ohio. Our route was taken eastward over the Pittsburgh and Fort Wayne Railroad as far as Upper Sandusky, Ohio. At this place we had two hours waiting between trains. But unlike most hours spent at railway depots these were short and pleasant hours. We had scarcely landed at this place until, in accordance with a previous arrangement we fell into the enjoyable company of an uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Christain Foucht, and also their daughter Lizzie, who reside a few miles out in the country from the city. It is always pleasant to meet old friends, and it was very gratifying to the pastor and family to spend the time, we had at this place with such dear friends as these. Shortly after 1 o'clock our train was due, and we continued our journey southward over the Toledo and Hocking Valley R. R., reaching Columbus, Ohio, at about 4 p. m. Here we made immediate connection for Glenford, Ohio, the pastor's old home. Our trip all along the line was a very pleasant one. The heavy rains of the day previous, throughout Indiana, and Ohio, were followed by a cool and refreshing atmosphere. All along our route the air was scented with the fragrance of clover and wild flowers, and everywhere the industrious farmer was seen out on his broad acres, reaping his harvest of wheat and grass.

At 6 o'clock in the evening we reached the romantic little town of Glenford, hedged in by many hills. Awaiting our arrival at this place was the pastor's father and W. V. Zartman, the wide awake business man of this little village and surrounding community. In a very short time after our arrival here, we were conveyed to the old home and were safe and happy with father and mother. The day's journey, though of more than 200 miles was not at all fatiguing, and we were delighted when we

reached the end of our trip, and found father and mother in such good health, and so well preserved, in mind and in body. The Lord has been very gracious unto them. They are now among the few in their community who have been spared until so late a day in life. Time works wonderful changes. The fathers and mothers of this community, of ten and fifteen years ago, have now, with but few exceptions, all passed into the great beyond. Their places are vacant in the home, in the church, and in society. Those who were the youth of fifteen and twenty years ago, are now the active men and women of the community. The boy has grown into manhood; the girl into woman-hood, and a generation of children has followed in the course of time, who greeted us on the highways, in the homes, and in the church, who were entire strangers to us. While in this community the old hills stand and endure as they did in childhood's days, and the little rivulets play where, and as they did then, the families are no longer as they were in days of yore. Many homes are entirely broken up, while of others there only remain shattered fragments. Some remain here; many others have gone to their long home. The old church cemetery has been adding to its numbers steadily and surely, year by year, and so the march goes on, ceaselessly coming and going.

It seemed to us indeed a pleasant change to get away from the noise and excitement of the city, into the quiet, and retreat of the country. This is certainly the place to go for rest and for recreation. We were anxious to make the best of our vacation. We went out into the fields, into the sun-light and fresh air. The atmosphere in this part of Ohio is peculiarly refreshing and invigorating, free from malaria, and any obnoxious stench. For a few days the pastor assisted in gathering hay and wheat, careful however not to exert himself too freely. Bodily exercise proved a happy antidote for tired and exhausted nerves and mind. It was also a good appetizer. Being out on the old farm, here and there, places which were familiar, and indeed sacred to us, the scenes of childhood, we felt it was not only most gratifying to us, but also invigorating to mind and body.

Most of our time was spent at home, in the company of father and mother. Many incidents, both amusing and sad were rehearsed.

The first Sabbath of our vacation we attended services at Somerset, Ohio. Here we were privileged to meet many familiar faces. We were glad to meet Rev. Calvin Rust and his lady at this time. They have now fully entered upon their work here, and are being very kindly received by these people, and are themselves delighted with their work and have before them the promise of much good in this field. At the Sabbath morning service we had the pleasure also of meeting Rev. Chas. Alspach and his estimable lady, then on their wedding tour, with his parents near Thornville, Ohio. This brother preached the sermon at the morning service, which was well received by the congregation, and was full of excellent thought. By another year this young brother will enter the ministry in full, and we feel confident will do a good work for the church, having also the assistance of his genial companion, whose heart is fully in the cause of the Master. The second Sabbath we attended services at the old home church. We were delighted to enter within those walls once again where we used to worship in the days of childhood. It was refreshing to our hearts. The Sabbath School is in the prime of life. This may be called the model country Sabbath School. In this school are classes from the infants to the classes of fathers and mothers. The school has an enrollment of perhaps about one hundred. Their collections are, as in all schools, a safe index to the practical piety and godliness of the heart. The collections range from four to six dollars. The people of this community have always been active and most devoted in their religious life. The attendance at the services upon this Sabbath was quite large, and to us the meetings were full of interest. We were specially pleased to see how devoted and earnest the younger portion of the membership of this church is in the Master's work. This is just as it should be in every church.

(Concluded on Third page.)

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR.

25 Cents per Year.

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, A. M., - - EDITOR.

Board of Managers: REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, ELDER F. D. PAULUS, DEACON H. P. VORDERMARK.

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THE PASTOR'S RETURN!

After a ramble of a few weeks we felt quite invigorated and rested, in mind and body, and were anxious to return again to our work and people. We were glad to meet so many of the church at our services on Sabbath morning. And we are also specially pleased to find our beautiful church parlors so clean and neat. They look as though they had gone through a severe process of renovation. "Cleanliness is next to godliness," says the proverb. We also fully appreciated the kind and warm reception which we received upon our return, as shown in the beautiful floral design of Sabbath morning, wrought in the midst of the beautiful flowers the greeting, "Welcome Home." A devoted pastor always has a very high appreciation of such and similar evidences of a people's esteem and devotion to him.

We have also felt very grateful that during our absence our people have enjoyed in the main such good health. But our hearts have been sorrowed in finding that one of our beloved families has been sorely bereaved. This esteemed sister, surely has the sympathy and prayers of the entire church, in the loss which she has sustained. Will not our Lord be a husband unto the widow and a father unto the orphan? Yea, for even so He has promised unto His children.

We are now again ready for work, and we feel as though there was an interesting campaign before us. While away from our work, we were not idle. We were in a position where we could look upon our work and our opportunities from a distance, though not with a disadvantage, and we aimed to improve this opportunity. We were busy mapping out plans, for work during the coming fall and winter, and in studying the wants and abilities of our people, and church. We expect to introduce soon some new features of work, by which we hope to utilize to a better advantage all our people, in the work of the church. One thing our churches lack to-day is vital godliness, true and living spirituality. Religion is too dead. The heart must be vitalized with the Holy Spirit.

There is ample room for more activity in the church. But a lifeless heart makes a dead church. In our church there are too many who of themselves find nothing to do, hence grow stupid, and still more do-less. These must be pressed into service. Pastors may be at fault sometimes. They are content to load up and pull the wagon themselves, giving their people a sort of a pleasure ride, rather than setting them at work and teaching them that Heaven is won by earnest toil, and that the bread earned by the sweat of the brow, tastes the sweetest to the hungry soul.

We shall hope to see the people of Grace Church stimulated to a still more vigorous spiritual life, and still more work done for the Lord. The ability and opportunity are not wanting. We believe that some new and advanced methods of work will meet with favor among our people, and especially among our young men and young ladies. With this hope we shall introduce some such methods shortly. Let us be ready for vigorous work during the coming fall and winter.

GRACE CHURCH TO THE CITY OF ROME.

The date for the annual excursion of Grace Church has been fixed for Tuesday Aug. 20th. Rome City, or Island Park has been chosen as the place, where we expect to spend the day. The train leaves the Grand Rapids depot at 8:05 in the morning. Excursionists can go upon any of the regular trains of that day, at 2:50 a. m., or 2:15 p. m., and the church will get the benefit of all tickets sold, for any of these trains on this day. The excursion tickets must all be exchanged at the ticket office, before taking the train for regular tickets. Those purchasing Grace Church excursion tickets must bear this in mind. We hope that all the members and friends of the church will purchase such tickets, so that the church can realize the benefits of all tickets sold. Tickets for adults \$1.00, children 50 cents. Grace Church has but one excursion a year. Every family and every member of the church should be willing to spend one day at least, out with the church. Every family should go. Parents, come spend a day with your children at this beautiful summer resort. It will do your heart good to get away from home cares and toils for one day and have a good time. If the day will be favorable, *as we know it will*, we shall have a pleasant time. Solomon says, "A merry heart doeth

good like medicine." This will be a merry day. Take it in. You will not need any quinine for the next year. Get your tickets in time, and every one sell all the tickets they can, and make your friends happy.

ORPHANS HOME ANNIVERSARY.

September 4th has been chosen as the day upon which the Orphans Home will celebrate its anniversary. We are assured that as upon former years, so this occasion will be a success. Conveyances will be secured so that the people can go out to the Home for a small consideration. This is a delightful place to spend a day. Dinner and supper will be furnished for 25 cents. Grace Church as well as all the friends of the orphans, has been solicited to lend a hand in this work. Our ladies have been asked to furnish waiters for one or two tables. We are certain our ladies who are so skilled in doing of this kind of work will respond cheerfully. All kinds of provisions will be thankfully received by the managers of the Home. As many of our ladies as can should furnish something. Cakes are needed, butter, eggs, lard, potatoes, meats, etc. Let there be a liberal response from Grace Church. The St. John's and Salem churches are already busy in soliciting and preparing for the occasion. Let our church fall in line with these churches in this good work of the Lord.

CHILDREN'S PICNIC.

On Thursday, Aug. 15, Grace Sabbath school will have its annual picnic. It will be held in Vordermark's grove, east of the city. Excursion street railway cars will be secured to take the children out within a short distance of the grove. The cars will leave on East Washington street, near the church, at 9 o'clock in the morning. The children will have a fine ride out and back. The children of the school will also be furnished with free tickets for ice cream and lemonade, and other confectionaries will be for sale on the grounds, out of which the managers of the picnic hope to realize enough to pay the expenses incurred during the day. We hope all the children and young people will be on hand, and also all the parents. Bring your baskets well filled.

The families who will entertain delegates during the ladies' convention, should report early to the ladies' society. The delegates will only be here for one day and night, and we want to entertain them hospitably while they are with us.

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Sabbath evening, - - - - - 7:30
Sunday School, - - - - - 9:30
Teachers' meeting Sabbath evening - - 6:30
Prayer meeting Wednesday evening - 7:30
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BREVITIES.

Excursion to Island Park Aug. 20th.

Children's picnic Thursday, Aug. 15th.

Orphan's Home anniversary September 4th.

James Lonergan and family now reside at No. 400 East Wayne street.

While at Island Park the pastor met a large number of his Goshen friends.

Mrs. Zartman and daughter Josie are visiting with friends at Canton, Ohio.

Ladies Classical Missionary Society meets August 28th in the Grace Church parlors.

Mrs. Kirkham, of Columbia City, is visiting with her daughter, Mrs. Archer, for a few days.

The Ladies Classical Society, and the special meeting of the St. Joseph classis, will not be held as at once contemplated, September 4th, but on August 28th.

By the first of September the pastor will organize another Catechetical class. Let all the young people who wish to enter the class, report themselves by that time.

The pastor's horse has been having "an outing" during our vacation out on the farm of Bro. Munn. From all appearance "Kit" has been having a fine time, and the best of care, and may want to come again.

On Friday evening August 2, the pastor delivered his lecture on "Immortality" at the Reformed Church near Upper Sandusky, Ohio, and spent the night and part of Saturday very pleasantly with friends at this place.

At our services on Sabbath Aug. 4th, the pulpit stand was graced with some flowers from the pastor's old home, some of mother's raising, though plucked already several days they were still fresh and fragrant and had many admirers.

The pastor will begin a series of talks with the boys and girls, the young men and young ladies, very shortly. The

first talk will be on Sabbath evening August 18. Topic, "Our Boys," Sabbath evening, August 25, "Our Girls."

While at Columbus, Ohio, August 2nd, the pastor called to see S. S. Rickley, president of the Capitol City Bank. This is the friend who has for the past several years been doing such liberal things for our institutions at Tiffin, Ohio. We found Mr. Rickley a very genial and conversant gentleman. He is an old friend of the pastor's parents.

GONE BEYOND.

On Saturday, July 20th, occurred the death of Joseph Earl, at the home of his brother, out of the city, where he had gone with the hope of recruiting his health. For several years Mr. Earl's health had been in a precarious condition, but had still been able to be about his work, until within a very short time before his death. The day of departure came very unexpected to himself and friends. The remains were brought to the city, and were buried on Monday. We were sorry that we could not be here to attend the services, but the telegram reached us too late. Mrs. Earl has the sympathy of the entire church, and her many friends in her bereavement. The great head of the church will not leave her comfortless. He will shelter and shepherd her and the little babe, and abide with them. We regret very much that Mrs. Earl has removed from our midst. But we know she will find it pleasanter with her friends in Ohio than here, where she has gone to make her home. We hope she will there find a pleasant church home among some of the Lord's people, and that the blessed Savior may be rich in grace and comfort to her bereaved and sorrowed heart.

August 28, Grace Church will entertain the special meeting of the Ladies' Society of St. Joseph Classis, also a special meeting of classis. The Ladies' Society will hold its first sessions in the afternoon of this day, opening at 2 o'clock. The programme has not yet been fully arranged, but there will, in all probability, be an address at the afternoon session of the society by one of the pastors, and some business of the society transacted. The evening session will be occupied by the reading of papers by some of the delegates from abroad. We feel certain Grace Church will be profited by this meeting. Let all our ladies so arrange their household affairs that they can attend these meetings. There should be a good representation of delegates from all the churches in classis.

THE PASTOR'S OUTING.

(Continued from First page.)

Well, we might speak of many other things of interest that we were privileged to witness and enjoy during our stay at the old home, but we must refrain from so doing at this time. On Friday morning, Aug. 2nd, we bid father and mother goodbye, and said farewell to the old home, and were soon aboard the train for Newark, Ohio. At this place Mrs. Zartman and daughter Josie took an east bound train for Canton, Ohio, where they are spending a few weeks with Father and Mother Conrad. The pastor started on a westward route for home, reaching Fort Wayne on Saturday evening, ready for his work on Sabbath morning. We are grateful to our Father above for the privilege of visiting the "old home" once more, and for shelter and watch-care over us during our visit. We hope to make many more such trips to Glenford, Ohio, if life is spared, and our work permits, to visit the dear people of this community, being not unmindful of the fact, however, that life is full of uncertainties and that of to-morrow we know nothing.

GROVE MEETING AT DUTCH RIDGE.

The people of the Salem Reformed Church anticipate a pleasant time at a meeting which they have appointed for Saturday August 31st. Some nine or ten Sabbath Schools have been invited to participate in the exercises of the day. Joseph Warner's grove about one mile south east of the Salem's Church has been secured for the occasion. Good speakers will be in invited, and we feel confident every person will be entertained, and without doubt the day's exercises will be profitable to the Sunday School work. The Salem's Church does not do things half way. No pains will be spared to make this occasion a success, commendable to the thrift and energy of these people.

Grace church will observe Children's Day some time about the middle of September. Our little folks, *both small and great*, should begin to garner their pennies and nickels. We expect to have a good time on that day and we know we will have a good collection. This is one of the best things of the day.

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